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August 23, 1951

S/P - Mr. Ferguson

It seems to me that our current discussions with respect to the adequacy and precision of NSC 68 and other studies dealing with the national security have revealed undesirable uncertainty regarding basic appraisals and conclusions. Perhaps it would be helpful were we to reexamine the U.S.-U.S.S.R. problem by the process of dissection--possibly under the following lines:

A. In what ways has the U.S.S.R. shown that it is inimical to the national security of the U.S.--either historically, immediately, tangibly, or otherwise?

(Suggested items:

1. Soviet theory and practice with respect to political, economic, and religious state organization.

2. Extension of foregoing concepts into other states through official communist activities.

3. Violation of post World War II international agreements.

4. Advancement of power frontiers through occupation or control of adjacent or other states.

5. Instigation and support of military activities in other states (Korea).

6. Blocking of peace treaties, failure to support U.N. beneficent activities, et cetera.

7. Anti-U.S. propaganda, and excessive rearmament.)

B. What

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B. What do we believe are the intentions of the U.S.S.R.--and upon what evidence or reasoning does the belief rest?

(Suggested items:

1. Implementation at any cost of basic communist doctrine.

2. Self-preservation.

3. World domination, as distinct from 1.

4. Co-existence.)

C. How has the U.S. reacted to U.S.S.R. behavior?

(Suggested items:

1. Efforts to utilize U.N. as agency for settlement of problems.

2. Marshall Plan and other economic recovery arrangements.

3. Greek program, NATO, and European Army.

4. Rearmament, military aid, bases.)

D. What are the present and probable consequences of U.S.S.R. action and U.S. reaction as cited in A and C?

(Suggested items:

1. The Cold War.

2. Atomic weapon stockpiling.

3. Constant threat of war precipitated by fear, miscalculation, or accident.

4. Possibility of delusion of invincibility, resulting from secret knowledge of seemingly overwhelming might.)

 E. What

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I. What should be our own intentions? Should we seek safe coexistence, a "favorable" change in the nature of the U.S.S.R., or the destruction of the Soviet menace?

(Suggested items:

1. Some of our European allies, and others, are reported to fear that we are deliberately seeking war.)

Walter Thurston

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